

Received & Inspected

DEC 21 2011

FCC Mail Room

Case Identifier: CGB-CC-0520

Commission's Secretary,
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Disability Rights Office, Room 3-B431
445 12th Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Exemption to the Closed Captioning Rules

To Whom It May Concern:

Riverbend Church is an Austin, Texas non-profit organization. We believe that as part of the Church of Jesus Christ we have been called to a mission to Reclaim the bruised, battered, broken and bored to the cause of Jesus Christ so that they might be Restored to a committed, personal relationship with Christ and thereby, in the course of their own spiritual growth, become Reproducers for the Kingdom of God. We believe God is the source of all blessings, and all we have and are we owe to Him. We freely serve Him with our time, talent, and material possessions to use for helping others. The television broadcast is one medium by which we strive to connect to people in the community.

Riverbend Church is hereby requesting an exemption from the closed captioning rules pursuant to Section 79.1(d) of the commission's rules for the reasons listed below:

Nature and Cost of Closed Captions

We contacted several national captioning services to determine the cost of outsourcing closed captioning programming. The cost averaged an additional \$340 per episode or a total of \$17,680 per year. To handle the captioning in-house would require the purchase of equipment at a cost of \$7,000, plus the hiring of additional staff to handle the verbatim transcription of the sermons. In addition, it takes approximately 2-3 hours to transcribe one 30-minute program. Either option would impact our airdate deadlines and the timeliness of our program. We believe such additional cost and time delays would place an undue burden on the ministry.

Impact on the Operation of the Provider Program

The total cost of our broadcast on an annual basis is \$94,412 per year. Closed captioning would increase that cost by almost 19% per year. This increase is not budgeted in 2012. If forced to absorb the additional cost, the church may be forced to eliminate programs to provide closed captioning for the broadcast.



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512.327.3540 phone
512.327.3895 fax

www.riverbend.com

Financial Resources of the Program Provider

Riverbend Church is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Our most recent financial information is attached. We depend solely on contributions from the members of the church to fund our programs each year. Our main expenditures are for the staff and other resources necessary to provide ministries and services to the community and to members of the church.

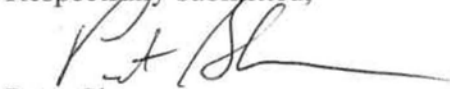
Other Factors

We believe that the local, non-news exemption to the closed captioning rule also applies to the Riverbend Church broadcast. The program is produced and distributed locally, and the sermons of Riverbend Church are of primarily local public interest. The episodes are not considered news.

Conclusion

As shown by the petition and its attachments, the commission should grant a waiver of the closed captioning requirements in this case, because requiring closed captioning would create an undue burden. The cost of captioning would be excessively high and would have a significant impact on Petitioner's operations. The Petitioner's type of operations and financial resources are different in kind and magnitude from a mainstream-programming provider. Because of the significant difficulty and expense of providing closed captions, a waiver under section 79.1(f) is warranted. If more information is needed, please contact me at the address provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Sleeper
Executive Pastor
Riverbend Church